Conrad Library moves into virtual age

by Lisa Alley

The Signal Center's Conrad Library, formerly Conrad Technical Library, has seen the signs of the times. Branching out from merely being a "physical" library to also being a "virtual" one, it has established a prototype virtual-university worldwide website.

According to chief librarian Linda Orne, Conrad wants to support the Signal Center's distance-learning program and other virtual-training initiatives by becoming the Signal Corps' resource and information-access center. Orne would like to build hyperlinks to all Signal Center training websites into the Conrad site as the Signal school continues to come on-line.

Conrad's web address is http://www.gordon.army.mil/ocos/conrad/default.htm. Web patrons will see a menu of six main areas: news — where Signal Corps and library news, plus notable calendars, can be found; library – containing information about the physical library, including the library collection, and virtual-library plug-ins; links – linking visitors to Signal Center resources, on-line publications, electronic indexes and other on-line resources; digital images – linking to Signal Corps-related images (photos, line art, unit insignia) established on the Regimental noncommissioned officer's website; virtual university – offering information on Signal Corps' distance learning as well as links to other virtual-learning sites; and worldwide-web navigation – linking to maps, information on how to navigate the worldwide web, and

Figure 24. Conrad Library's worldwide web homepage. Conrad is the Signal Corps' resource and information-access center, and Fort Gordon's link to Signal Corps on-line resources.

other useful information.

At this time, the site is completely publicly accessible. In the future, parts of the site, especially access into the collection, may be password-protected for Signal Center students only to use.

There are areas for people to "talk" to the librarians, to request information and research services or to give them feedback on how the site can serve them better.

In the future, added to Conrad's virtual-learning initiative via the website will be a multimedia lab in Conrad's basement. The lab will be for the Signal Center's staff and faculty – established much like the faculty lab at a university, according to Norma Childs, distance-learning coordinator for the Signal Center. The lab will contain

digital cameras and top multimedia software: Toolbook, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop and Designer's Edge. Laser and color printers will also be available, Childs said.

As the Signal Center's virtual-learning programs grow, the Signal Center's academic library will grow with the times.

*Ms. Alley is **Army Communicator**'s editor. In conjunction with Conrad's chief librarian, she designed and established Conrad's website. In January, responsibility for the website shifted from Office Chief of Signal to the directorate Conrad Library is attached to: Regimental directorate of training. Its new web address is http://www.gordon.army.mil/rdot/conrad/default.htm.*